

**From:** [Braden Hourigan](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Badger Mt. Solar Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 4:18:31 PM

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External Email

To Whom it May Concern,

I am contacting you with intent to submit public comment regarding the Badger Mt. Solar Energy Project.

Across the western United States there is an abundance of land. Preserved natural lands, resource extraction, agricultural lands – the list goes on. Eastern Washington is no different – it has been proven time and time again that there is room for multiple interests when it comes to land use. But here we need to focus on what land is most beneficial for what use.

The impact of the conversion of thousands of acres of land to a solar facility is undeniable regardless of previous use. The key here is how much impact this development will have in one place versus another.

To think that Douglas County will be at all considered for a project of this nature is a surprise due to impacts on Sage Grouse, a species whose challenges are so blatantly obvious that I need not detail here. When one takes a closer look at where the specific location of the proposed project is, “surprising” becomes “appalling.”

If we have accepted that a solar facility of this scale will be found locally, one does not have to look far to find a more suitable site. Eastern Washington showcases no shortage of checkerboarded expanses of agricultural land, completely stripped of native habitat, and far from populations of struggling species.

I presume that my point has already been made clear, but to highlight the essence of this comment I must ask – if the peril of a local species is worth a foreign companies development in our backyard, what is the point of a site evaluation process, and where is the backbone of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council?

Thank you for your time and thank you for your site evaluation of the Badger Mt. Solar Energy Project.

Braden Hourigan